

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressmen **Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23)** and **Silvestre Reyes (TX-16)**, returned today from leading a delegation of U.S. Members of Congress to Mexico City, where they met with members of the Mexican Congress to discuss the tenets of what would be required for the U.S. to assist Mexico in fighting drug cartels.

Congressman Rodriguez, Member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and Congressman Reyes, Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and a 26 ½ year veteran of the U.S. Border Patrol, are members of the U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group.

Congressmen Rodriguez and Reyes released the following statements upon their return:

"Securing our border and supporting Mexico's efforts to reduce the illegal drug and arms trade along the US-Mexico border region are international projects that need our support," said Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez**. "While the specifics are yet to be determined, we will continue to work with the Mexican government to finalize a package that makes the most of our US dollars. Supporting Mexico advances our own priorities along the Texas-Mexico border -- including ensuring our national security and working to build long-lasting and stable economic relationships across the entire border region."

“While neither my colleagues and I nor the Mexican Congress know the specifics of the Administration’s proposal for U.S. assistance to Mexico, it is important that we work together right now to discuss what we think would be necessary and helpful to cut down on drug trafficking and violence,” said Congressman **Silvestre Reyes**. “This is a critical issue for our two nations, and both Congresses must approve the final legislative action.”

During the session, discussions covered technology needs, intelligence sharing, and overall security aspects of the requirements for the developing proposal. The delegation included Congressman **Ed Pastor (D-CA)**, Chairman of the U.S.-Mexico IPG, Congressman **Gene Green (D-TX)**, and Congressman **Ciro Rodriguez (D-TX)**. The delegation met with several Mexican Senators and Diputados, as well as **Carlos Rico**, the Mexican Under Secretary for North America, and **Leslie Bassett**, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, MX.

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